

**MEMBERS PRESENT**

***Springfield Location:***

Michele Carmichael	Alan Dietrich	David Elder	Maureen Haugh-Stover
Debra Kinsey	Gary Seelbach	Randy Staton	Julie Stremlau
Brooke Whitted			

***Chicago Location: (attending by Video conference)***

Bob Bloom	Kathy Briseno	Dee Ann Ryan	Seth Harkins
Jason Johnson			

**MEMBERS ABSENT**

Edgar Hernandez	Merlin Lehman
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**STAFF PRESENT**

***Springfield Location:***

Mindy Miller	John Schornagel	Linda Prewitt
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***Chicago Location: (attending by Video conference)***

Robert Watts

**LIAISONS PRESENT**

None

**GUESTS**

Toni Hoy

**I. CALL TO ORDER**

Chairperson Seelbach called the meeting to order at 9:32 a.m. Members, staff and guests in attendance introduced themselves.

**II. APPROVAL OF THE APRIL 12, 2012 MINUTES**

The Authority reviewed the minutes of the April 12, 2012 meeting. Several members offered amendments.

***MOTION:*** Kathy Briseno moved and Brooke Whitted seconded that the minutes of the April 12, 2012 Authority meeting be approved with amendments. The motion carried unanimously.

### III. STAFF REPORT

Director Schornagel referenced the following informational handouts:

- **Staff Activity Reports for April and May.** Director Schornagel commented that we currently have one case at staff review. We had a case at staff review in April which was resolved as DDD agreed to residentially place the child at an in-state residential treatment facility under 19D.
- Copies of the **CRSA FY 13 Meeting Schedule** which was adopted at the April meeting.
- **ICG Annual Reports from FY 10 and FY 11.** Director Schornagel commented that as usual ICG Annual Reports are a mixture of both positive and negative indicators. He also commented that the FY 11 report has numerous typographical errors and apparent factual inaccuracies. He offered the following examples: in both annual reports the number of reported ICGs granted and denied does not add up to the number of complete packets reviewed:
  - In FY 10, 308 complete applications were reviewed, 60 of which were granted ICGs {19.4 %}. This data suggests that 248 applications were denied yet the report indicates that only 126 children were denied; an apparent reporting error of 122 denials.
  - Similarly, in FY 11, 275 complete applications were reviewed, 27 of which were granted ICGs {9.8%}. This data suggests that 248 applications were denied yet the report indicates that only 99 children were denied; an apparent reporting error of 149 denials.

Regarding the apparent reporting errors, Director Schornagel commented that both he and Robert Watts attended the ICG Advisory Council meeting in April at which these reports were released and he suggested at the time that these reports be considered to be *draft* documents, thereby giving the DMH time to revisit the data, make necessary corrections and re-release them in corrected fashion. He commented that aside from the data errors, the number of ICGs awarded in FY 11 (only 27 awards of 275 complete applications {equaling 9.8% of applicants} immediately drew criticism when it was publically released. Director Schornagel stated that he intended to revisit these annual reports later in today's agenda under Old Business.

- Director Schornagel commented on a related **document (from the Illinois Mental Health Planning and Advisory Council)**: obviously in reaction to the FY 11 ICG Annual Report. The document written by Ray Connor, parent, suggests a causal linkage between the ICGs denied in that year and seemingly proportional increase Custody Relinquishment (CR) cases going to the courts in that same time period. He added that while the causal link between decreased ICGs awarded and CR cases going to the courts is not clearly supported, it underscores the widespread discussions occurring in the field that as residential funding resources are reduced in some agencies, the kids needing services merely surface in other agencies and places.

- **Excerpts from the May 29 and June 11 Weekly Message of State Superintendent Koch.** Director Schornagel pointed out that both excerpts talk about a potential Part B fund shortage (excess room and board money) used to pay for excess cost claims under 14-7.02 B in the Illinois School Code. The significance for the CRSA is that it appears that Illinois Part B funds (which are set aside to reimburse LEA for the room and board costs of kids in LEA sponsored residential placements), may be approaching a point where there may not be sufficient dollars to fully reimburse LEAs for residential room and board costs. It caused him to wonder about where the actual break point is. How many kids can be in LEA funded residential placements before the funds are depleted to the point that room and board reimbursements not reimbursed at 100%? He recalls that this has not occurred since the early 1990s.

#### **IV. AGENCY REPORTS**

Randy Staton provided the Authority with an overview of proposed changes to DHS/DORS services that would potentially impact CRSA clients and are expected to become effective on July 1, 2012 as a result of recent budgeting priorities. These changes include:

- Raising Determination of Need (DON) scores thus raising the threshold for potential recipients to receive DORS services.
- Service cost maximums will be decreased to DORS recipients.
- Individuals with mental illness and/or developmental disabilities will no longer be eligible for DORS services unless they have a primary designation of physical disability.
- Individuals under the age of 18 served by DORS Home Service Program will no longer receive most DORS services with the exception of Respite Services.
- Individuals served under the Brain Injury Waiver are being shifted to the Personal Injury Waiver.

Debra Kinsey of Healthcare and Family Services alerted members to review an HFS factsheet that was part of the packet detailing the proposed 2.7 billion dollars in Illinois Medicaid cuts during FY 13.

#### **V. OLD BUSINESS**

##### **A. FY 13 Appropriations Update**

Director Schornagel reported to the Authority that the General Assembly has approved a CRSA expenditure amount for FY 13 of \$592,300 the same as the FY 12 CRSA expenditure. He commented that this matches the recommendations of the Governor's Office of Management and Budget and that he anticipates that this will be signed into law by the Governor. He added that when Governor does approve a final expenditure for CRSA for FY 13, that a revised FY 13 Expenditure Plan be put before the board for review and adoption.

## **B. ICG Annual Reports**

The Authority discussed the ICG FY 10 and FY 11 Annual Reports recently released by DHS/DMH and that were introduced earlier in the Agenda under Staff Report. Several members commented upon the continuing decline in ICG eligibility rates in recent years; in FY 11 reportedly less than 10%- the lowest in ICG history. Brooke Whitted shared a signed response to the ICG Annual Reports characterizing the eligibility declines as intentional cost-containment. He also responded verbally to what seemed to be obvious errors in budget reporting stating that the budget inaccuracies are legally deficient.

The discussion quickly turned to interagency dynamics.

- Chairperson Seelbach referenced that a few years ago, CRSA had written to DHS/DMH Administration, requesting that DMH select a cross section of community-mental health centers to be invited to attend a CRSA meeting to offer their perceptions about strengths and weaknesses in the community-based mental health service continuum. He asked what had happened to that request. Director Schornagel responded that DMH did not respond to the request quickly and after repeated inquiries elected to not respond to the request. Seth Harkins responded that in his experience having DMH/ICG staff attend question and answer sessions with CRSA was a useful approach to information sharing and should be revisited with current ICG Director Trohalides and DMH Director, Dr. Mehlinger. Dee Ann Ryan wondered what specific information CRSA would request now if re-inviting DMH to a question and answer session with CRSA. She suggested that the Authority continue to be very specific when asking DMH for an audience before the board. Director Schornagel agreed to search for the initial request letter to DMH Administration and to share it with the Board.
- Ms. Ryan added that under long standing federal law, kids who are Medicaid eligible should not have to apply for an ICG either for community-based-services nor residential treatment because of pre-existing Medicaid obligations to those kids under the EPSDT program. Seth Harkins pointed out that approximately 40% of children with ICGs continue to be adopted children and most of them publically adopted children who are Medicaid eligible.
- Director Schornagel referenced the increasing difficulty in recent years for CRSA staff to understand how to effectively direct consumers for services and funding especially for children who are dually-diagnosed with both mental illness and developmental disabilities. Maureen Haugh-Stover acknowledged that this continues to be a challenge for the DMH and DDD divisions within DHS as well and that those divisions work very closely to sort out respective service obligations in an ever-changing funding environment.
- Bob Bloom wondered how many kids that could have been served by other systems gravitated to Juvenile Justice. Director Schornagel responded that the last time CRSA had affirmative DJJ data, the average length of stay for children in DJJ was only 90 days and then they were placed back in their home communities.

**C. Other**

None

**VI. NEW BUSINESS**

**A. Election of Officers**

Chairperson Seelbach announced that he has consulted with the Executive Committee on behalf of the CRSA Nominating Committee and that the CRSA FY 13 Nominating Committee is recommending the following slate of officers for FY 13: Seth Harkins as Chairperson, Brooke Whitted as Vice- Chairperson and Julie Stremlau as Secretary. There were no nominations from the floor.

**MOTION:** *David Elder moved and Kathy Briseno seconded the Authority approve the slate of officers submitted by the Nominating Committee for FY 13: appointing Seth Harkins as Chairperson, Brooke Whitted as Vice-Chairperson and Julie Stremlau as Secretary. The motion carried unanimously.*

Chairperson Seelbach thanked the Nominating Committee for their work.

**B. Executive Committee Caucuses**

Caucuses were held to determine appointments to the Executive Committee for FY 13. The following members were appointed to represent their constituencies on the CRSA Executive Committee.

**Legislative Appointees:** Kathy Briseno was appointed as primary representative to the Executive Committee and David Elder was appointed as Alternate.

**Gubernatorial Appointees:** Gary Seelbach and Bob Bloom were both appointed to be primary representatives to the Executive Committee, splitting seat for Springfield meetings and Chicago respectively and Dee Ann Ryan was appointed as Alternate.

**Agency Appointees:** Randy Staton and Maureen Haugh-Stover were appointed as primary representatives to the Executive Committee and Jason Johnson was appointed as Alternate.

**C. Other**

None

## **VII. COMMITTEE REPORTS**

### **A. Executive Committee**

Chairperson Seelbach reported that most of the Executive Committee discussion items have been covered under other parts of the agenda with the exception of the following. Chairperson Seelbach informed the Authority that the Executive Committee discussed the importance of multiple-agency case coordination for transition planning for children and adolescence to the adult system that should begin in Illinois no later than age 14½ for children with IEPs. He announced that the Executive Committee has requested an in-service training from DORS staff including the transition coordinator from ISBE so that CRSA staff and interested Authority members can better understand the role that DORS plays in transition planning for high school aged children.

### **B. Staff Evaluation Committee Report**

Chairperson Seelbach reported to the Authority that the Executive Committee reviewed the completed evaluation of the Executive Director. He added that the executive Committee noted that this evaluation departed from the recently revised procedure for evaluating the Executive Director. In following, the Executive Committee has requested that the Executive Director Evaluation process for next year be placed on the next Executive Committee Agenda.

## **VIII. OPEN DISCUSSION**

Brooke began to comment upon HFS psychiatric hospitalization and cost data for children over a five year period of time, acquired through HFS staff by Dee Ann Ryan. Director Schornagel suggested that discussion on this document be postponed until the entire Authority had a copy of the document and sufficient time to evaluate it.

Director Schornagel commented that staff are feeling pressure for CRSA to be more responsive to the needs of parents and service teams in the field when in crisis situations. These are situations in which children and families cannot acquire needed services and in needed timeframes. He noted that disrupting public and private adoptions, involuntary custody relinquishment cases and increasing shortage/absence of available community-based services are good examples of systemic pressures on CRSA to respond to situations affirmatively in shorter timeframes than are currently allowable under the CRSA Dispute Resolution Process. He suggested that the Authority consider forming a standing Agency Response Committee which would meet periodically to respond to CRSA cases which are heading to the CRSA Dispute Resolution process, thereby speeding up the process and achieving faster resolution of service impasses. Several members of the Authority commented that such an approach was not in place and suggested that staff get member agency representatives involved in cases earlier, at the Technical Assistance level, to help speed up member agencies' response times to crisis situations. There was a brief discussion regarding minimum criteria for a CRSA case to be referred directly to member agencies for intervention.

Director Schornagel commented that to protect client confidentiality and to assure parental control over treatment, that both written and verbal parental consent would be needed for such referrals to move directly to member agencies for rapid service impasse responses. He added that a faster case vetting process also needs to be devised so that member agencies would have reliable and actionable information on which to respond. He concluded by recommending that member agencies ideally should respond quickly and directly to the field in such situations so that accountability for service impasses are not shifted inadvertently to CRSA.

Michele Carmichael commented that CRSA staff in the field should not put themselves in the position to interpret legal documents and policies published by member agencies but should instead refer individuals in the field to those agencies directly for interpretation or legal opinions. Director Schornagel agreed. He commented that there are occasions where there is insufficient guidance to the field and/or when slow response times from member's agencies on specific policy and legal enquiries from the field that cause folks to call CRSA for clarity.

#### **IX. COMMENTS AND ANNOUNCEMENTS**

Gary's Seelbach commented that his daughter Jenna is recovering rapidly from her medical problems and is back in nursing school and a more normal day to day routine. The Authority expressed their happiness upon hearing this update.

#### **X. PUBLIC PARTICIPATION**

Toni Hoy commented she supports CRSA's recommendation that an independent statewide task force be appointed to fully explore why custody relinquishments occur in Illinois. She was clear that such a Task Force would make recommendations which would ultimately lead to the end the Custody Relinquishments in Illinois. Chairperson Seelbach commended Ms. Hoy on her book "Second Time Foster Child" and recommended that Authority members interested in the Custody relinquishment issue read it.

#### **XI. ADJOURNMENT**

**MOTION:** *Brooke Whitted moved and Maureen Haugh-Stover seconded that the meeting be adjourned at 11:11 a.m. The motion carried unanimously.*